[*Translation*]

Criteria for Backward Areas

3508. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state·

(a) whether backward areas have been categorised depending upon the level of backwardness of the area;

(b) if so, the norms followed in this regard; and

(c) the details of the facilities provided to such areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The criteria adopted for identification of backward districts were (i) per capita food grains/commercial crops production depending on whether the district is predominantly a producer of food grains/cash crops. (for Inter-district Comparisons conversion rates between food grains and commercial crops may be determined by the State Government on a pre-determined basis where necessary), (ii) ratio of population to agricultural workers, (iii) per capita industrial output, (iv) number of factory employees per lakh of population or alternatively number of persons engaged in secondary and ter-tiary activities per lakh of population, (v) per capita consumption of electricity, (vi) length of surfaced roads in relation to population or railway mileage in relation to population.

(c) In order to encourage induistrialisation of backward areas a number of States are offering financial and fiscal conscessions such as investment subsidy, interest subsidy, tax-deferment etc. The Central Government is operating a Transport Subsidy scheme for the North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep, 8 hill districts of Uttar Pradesh and Darjeeling District of West Bengal, under which subsidy upto 90% of the cost of transported raw materials and finished goods from selected points to the industrial units is given.

[*English*]

Promotion of small scale Industries

3509. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed for the promotion of small scale industries during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the number of small scale industries closed down during the Seventh Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(c) whether there is uniform policy for promotion of small scale industries in all the states in the country; and

(d) whether any special incentives are given for promotion of such units in the backward districts particularly in the State of Maharashtra as defined and identified by the Shivaraman Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) The policy measures for Promoting and Strengthening Small, Tiny and Village Enterprises laid in Parliament on 6.8.1991 are intended to impart more vitality and growth-impetus to small Scale Industries.

(b) The State-wise number of Small Scale Industries closed down during the 7th Five Year Plan are not available. However, the State-wise number of small scale industries